

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 00204 121808Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5615

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

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USMISSION NATO FOR AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE-SOVIET TRADE COMMISSION MEETING

1. A SOVIET TRADE DELEGATION, LED BY VICE MINISTER OF TRADE MANZHULO, VISITED LISBON WEEK OF JAN 5-10 TO PARTICIPATE IN FIRST MEETING OF JOINT TRADE COMMISSION. NO TRADE AGREEMENT NOR CONCRETE CONTRACTS RESULTED ALTHOUGH PROTOCOL WAS SIGNED AT END OF MEETING.

2. ACCORDING TO PROTOCOL AND PRESS ACCOUNTS, MEETING CENTERED ON DISCUSSION OF PROPOSAL TO INCREASE TRADE AND COMMERCE BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. GOP MADE STRONG POINT, BOTH PUBLICALLY AND PRIVATELY, THAT HUGE TRADE DEFICIT WITH USSR MUST BE REDUCED. BOTH SIDES FURNISHED LISTS OF PRODUCTS WHICH THEY DESIRE TO EXPORT. GOP LIST INCLUDED TRADITIONAL GOODS SUCH AS FISH, CORK, SHOES AND
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PAGE 02 LISBON 00204 121808Z

TEXTILES AS WELL AS ELECTRIC WIRE AND CABLE, FISH NETS, AND

BUILDING MATERIALS. NEGOTIATIONS ARE SLATED TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE SALES OF PORTUGUESE MOTORS, TRANSFORMERS, PUMPS AND MOLDS FOR PLASTIC ARTICLES. REPAIR OF SOVIET NAVAL VESSELS AT LISNAVE WAS AGAIN CONSIDERED. THE SOVIETS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN DIVERSIFYING THEIR EXPORTS (IN ADDITION TO PETROLEUM) AND REPORTEDLY CONCENTRATED ON MACHINERY, EQUIPMENT AND COTTON.

3. SOVIET DELEGATION WAS RECEIVED BY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL COMMERCE. IT VISITED SEVERAL INDUSTRIAL INSTALLATIONS INCLUDING LISNAVE AND SETENAVE SHIPYARDS AND MUNDET CORK FACTORY, WHICH IS U.S. CITIZEN OWNED BUT INTERVENED BY GOP.

4. FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE REPORTED BY AIRGRAM. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY AVAILABLE INFORMATION FROM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW.

5. COMMENT: RESULTS OF JOINT TALKS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN MEAGER. GOP MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND TOURISM TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT NO CONCRETE RESULTS WERE ACHIEVED. RUSSIANS WERE, HOWEVER, FORCEFULLY INFORMED OF PORTUGAL'S UNHAPPINESS WITH CURRENT DEFICIT IN ITS TRADE WITH RUSSIA.

6. BILATERAL MEETINGS BEGAN WITH EXTENSIVE PRESS FANFARE, BUT ENDED WITH PUBLICATION OF LOW-KEY PROTOCOL NOTING THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD CONTINUE. SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN TRADE, WHEN SIGNING PROTOCOL, STATED THERE WERE NO SENSATIONAL RESULTS. HE EXPLAINED HIS STATEMENT BY CLAIMING THAT PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS ONLY TO ASSESS TRADE RELATIONS, RESOLVE DIFFICULTIES AND DISCUSS PROSPECTS. HIS STATEMENT UNDOUBTEDLY MEANT TO COVER GROWING GOP DISAPPOINTMENT. PREVIOUS DELEGATIONS FROM EASTERN EUROPE HAVE SIGNED IMPORTANT CONTRACTS. THIS ONE, ON THE OTHER HAND, DISCUSSED ISSUES WHICH HAVE LARGELY BEEN PENDING FOR ALMOST A YEAR.
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